

**PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM
 DEL MAR COLLEGE
 NURSING MULTIPLE ENTRY/EXIT PROGRAM**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Consider the Del Mar College proposal to establish a nursing Multiple Entry-Exit Program (MEEP) in Corpus Christi, Texas. The final revised proposal was sent to members of the Board under a separate cover. A Notice of Public Hearing has been posted (See Attachment One).

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

- Del Mar College has a long history of providing both successful vocational nursing (VN) and associate degree nursing (ADN) education.
- Del Mar College's vocational nursing education program started in September 1948 and the associate degree nursing education program started in September 1967.

Program	Year	Approval Status	NCLEX-PN® Pass Rate	Number of First-Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
Del Mar College VN Program	2005	Full	100%	44/44
	2004	Full	98%	46/47
	2003	Full	96%	55/57
Del Mar College ADN Program	2005	Full	89.31%	117/131
	2004	Full	94.49%	120/127
	2003	Full	90.16%	110/122

- Del Mar College began the proposal process by submitting a proposal on September 12, 2005 for a Major Curriculum Change for the ADN program which included a request for approval of a new nursing education program and notification of intent to close the generic vocational nursing education program once the new proposed program was approved.
- Following several telephone consultations with board staff, the program submitted a separate proposal for the MEEP which was received in the Board office on June 1, 2006.
- After review of the original proposal, the revised MEEP proposal and several telephone conferences, Board staff visited Del Mar College on June 15, 2006 for the purpose of a face-to-face proposal consultation and a visit to the construction site of the new Health Science Complex.
- The program revised the June 1, 2006 proposal which was sent to the Board members under a separate cover prior to the July 20-21, 2006 meeting.

SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSAL:

Overview:

- Del Mar College is requesting to establish a Multi Entry/Exit Program at Corpus Christi, Texas.
- The intention is to provide a seamless articulation nursing program between the current vocational nursing program and the associate degree nursing program.
- Implementation of the proposed program will begin in Fall 2006. Once Board approval for the new program is received, the current generic vocational nursing program will be closed. The last students enrolled in the current VN program will graduate in December 2006.

Present and Anticipated Need for Program:

- Proposal included results of a Nursing Needs Survey indicating that the number of job openings for Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs) in the Corpus Christi area is decreasing.
- Projections presented in the proposal indicate that a MEEP will be able to provide sufficient LVNs to meet the community need.
- Results from a Survey of Potential Students indicated positive acceptance of a MEEP at Del Mar College.
- Letters of support for the proposed program from the administration at Del Mar College, CHRISTUS Spohn Health System in Corpus Christi, and Coastal Bend College were included in the proposal.

Potential Student Population:

- Major recruitment efforts will be directed toward individuals enrolled in the Del Mar College Nursing Department.

Impact on Existing Programs:

- Impact on existing programs from other entities should be minimally impacted as Del Mar College currently operates an existing generic VN program and an existing ADN program.
- Affiliating agencies will remain the same. The local university has representation on Del Mar College's advisory committee. A master plan for coordinating student clinical learning experiences for both institutions is in place.

Director/Faculty:

- The current director of the ADN program will serve as director of the MEEP.
- The current faculty from both the VN Program and the ADN Program are qualified to teach in the MEEP and teaching assignments are appropriate.

Budget

- The budgets from the current VN and ADN programs will be combined into one nursing department budget.
- Current facilities, resources, and services meet the requirements of the rule.
- A new Health Science Complex is under construction and is scheduled to be completed prior to Fall 2006. Blueprints of the complex were included in the proposal. The nursing department will be relocated to the newly constructed facilities.

Program of Study:

- Proposed curriculum is well-developed and includes all required elements.
- Proposed curriculum includes 624 hours for classroom instruction and 976 hours for clinical practice.
- Syllabi included with the proposal indicate that the Differentiated Entry Level Competencies (DELCO) are incorporated throughout the proposed MEEP curriculum.
- Clinical evaluation tools included with the proposal demonstrate minimal progression. Wording on the tools does not indicate that a higher level of performance is expected for the students besides just progression based on the acuity of the patient/client group. Several of the clinical objectives/outcomes are not written in behavioral terms that are measurable.

Total Program Evaluation:

- The Total Program Evaluation Plan includes all required items and numerical benchmarks for some criteria, but not all. Current data was not included from the current VN and ADN Programs.
- The exact method that will be utilized to evaluate the new MEEP is not evident and numerical benchmarks will need to be included/ revised as data is collected from the MEEP.

PROS AND CONS.:

Pros:

- Del Mar College currently operates a successful generic vocational nursing program and associate degree nursing education program.
- A qualified director and faculty have been identified for the proposed program.
- The proposed program of study/curriculum is well-developed and addresses all required elements.
- Facilities, resources, and services in the current nursing department buildings meet the requirements

of the rule.

- Adequate clinical facilities for clinical learning experiences are in place.
- An adequate budget to operate the program is in place as the two budgets for the current nursing programs will be combined into one budget.

Cons:

- A new Health Science Complex was under construction at the time of the visit and board staff were unable to survey the buildings and view the facilities for classrooms, offices, and nursing skills labs.
- Clinical evaluation tools for the courses in the proposed curriculum do not demonstrate expectations for sufficient student progression.
- The Total Program Evaluation Plan included with the proposal does not have sufficient measurable evaluative criteria (benchmarks) and appropriate indicators of program and instructional effectiveness in all the broad areas required by the rule. Additionally, the plan did not have sufficient current data available for analysis.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Move to approve a nursing Multi Entry/Exit Program (MEEP) to be established by Del Mar College, grant the program Initial Approval status, authorize board staff to conduct a survey visit in Fall 2006, and issue requirements to be met, as indicated in the attached letter (See Attachment Two).

BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS
333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460
Austin, Texas 78701-3942

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for

Consideration of a Proposal from Del Mar College

To Establish A

Nursing Multi Entry/Exit Program

at

Corpus Christi, Texas

Date and Time: July 20, 2006 at 10:30 a.m.

Place:

Hobby Building
333 Guadalupe Street
Tower 2, Room 225
Austin, Texas

The Board will hear testimony from individuals who wish to present information concerning the proposal. Written testimony will also be considered and should be received in the Board's office by [Date at least 10 days prior to Board meeting.]

Address written testimony to:

Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director
Board of Nurse Examiners
333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460
Austin, Texas 78701-3942

DRAFT LETTER

July 25, 2006

Donna J. Wofford, PhD, RN, Nursing Program/MEEP Director
Del Mar College
101 Baldwin
Corpus Christi, Texas 78404

Dear Dr. Wofford:

At the July 20-21, 2006 meeting, members of the Board of Nurse Examiners discussed the Del Mar College proposal to establish a new nursing Multi Entry/Exit Program (MEEP). The members of the Board wish to thank [] for being available to answer questions.

As indicated by the enclosed order, the Board takes pleasure in informing you that based upon the discussion and review of documents, it was the decision of the Board to grant Initial Approval status to the Del Mar College nursing Multi Entry/Exit Program (MEEP), authorize board staff to conduct a survey visit in Fall 2006, and issue the following requirements to be met.

Requirements:

1. Rule 214.9(b)(1) related to Program of Study requires in pertinent part that "Clinical and course objectives/outcomes shall be stated in behavioral terms and shall serve as the mechanism for student progression." A review of the clinical evaluation tools included with the proposal demonstrate minimal progression. Wording on the tools does not indicate that a higher level of performance is expected for the students besides just progression throughout the curriculum based on the acuity of the patient/client group. Further, several of the clinical objectives/outcomes are not written in behavioral terms that are measurable. **Therefore**, the MEEP and ADN faculty shall revise the current clinical evaluation tools that are being used to evaluate student clinical performance to show student progression and include clinical objectives/outcomes that are written in behavioral terms that are measurable. **Additionally**, these revised clinical evaluation tools shall be submitted to board staff for approval prior to being implemented.
2. Rule 214.13(a) related to Total Program Evaluation requires in pertinent part that "There shall be a written plan for the systematic evaluation of the total program. The plan shall include evaluative criteria, methodology, frequency of evaluation, assignment of responsibility, and indicators (benchmarks) of program and instructional effectiveness." A review of the Total Program Evaluation Matrix submitted in the proposal revealed that the plan does not have sufficient measurable evaluative criteria (benchmarks) and appropriate indicators of program and instructional effectiveness in all the broad areas required by the rule. Additionally, the plan did not have sufficient current data available for analysis. **Therefore**, the MEEP and ADN faculty shall: establish appropriate indicators of program and instructional effectiveness, including measurable evaluative criteria (benchmarks), for all the broad areas referenced in the rule and include these in the total Program Evaluation Plan to indicate the methods by which the MEEP will be evaluated. **Additionally**, the revised Total Program Evaluation Plan with current data shall be submitted with the 2006 and 2007 Annual Reports as appropriate.

Requirements are mandatory and are based on program assessment directly related to the rule. Requirements shall be addressed in the manner prescribed. Please report on the address of the above requirements to be met in the 2006 and 2007 Annual Reports as appropriate or unless otherwise specified. Board staff will contact you to arrange a time for a survey visit in Fall 2006. If you have questions, or if we may be of assistance, please contact board staff at (512) 305-6815.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP, President

Robbin Wilson, MSN, RN, Lead Nursing Consultant for Education

cc: Bertha Almendarez, MSN, RN, Interim Chairperson Nursing Department, Del Mar College
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS
IN AND FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

In the matter of the proposal of
Del Mar College
For approval to establish a nursing Multi Entry/Exit Program

ORDER OF THE BOARD

TO: Del Mar College

The Board of Nurse Examiners in and for the State of Texas in a regularly scheduled meeting, held on the 20th day of July 2006, considered the proposal for authority to establish a nursing Multi Entry/Exit Program by the Board, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code.

At the meeting, Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP, President of the Board, presided and the following members were present:

George Buchenau, Jr., RN, BSN, Representing Practice
Deborah Hughes Bell, CLU, ChFC, Consumer Member
Virginia M. Campbell, RN, AND, BSN, CNOR, Representing Practice
Brenda S. Jackson, PhD, RN, Representing BSN Programs
Richard Robert Gibbs, LVN, Representing Practice
Rachel Gomez, LVN, Representing Practice
Beverly Jean Nutall, LVN, Representing Practice
Anita Palmer, Consumer Member
Frank D. Sandoval, Jr., Consumer Member
Joyce M. Adams, PhD, RN, Representing LVN programs
Blanca Rosa Garcia, PhD, RN Representing ADN programs
Phyllis Caves-Rawley, Consumer Member

The Board reviewed the proposal of the above school and after having discussed the proposal in an open public meeting, the Board makes the following findings:

FINDINGS

1. That a written proposal has been filed with said Board.
2. That a public meeting on said proposal was held to take testimony and evidence by the Board.
3. That the written proposal does meet the minimum requirements for proceeding with the establishment of an approved program offering a certificate in Vocational Nursing.

ORDER

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT, the proposal of Del Mar College is approved, having been found to comply with minimum requirements and standards for establishing a nursing Multi Entry/Exit Program to prepare vocational nurses.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT THE aforementioned entity is authorized to implement a nursing Multi Entry/Exit Program and the legal requirements and standards for vocational nursing education as described in Rules and Regulations Relating to Vocational Nursing Education, §214.1-§214.13 (effective 02/17/05) shall be met.

DATED THIS 25th day of July, 2006.

THE BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS IN AND
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

Seal

By: _____

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP, President